

**Idaho Fish and Game Commission  
Special Meeting  
December 19, 2006  
Boise, Idaho**

The meeting convened at 8:10 a.m. with Commissioners Wheeler, McDermott, Barowsky, Wright, Budge, and Power present. Commissioner Irby joined the meeting at 8:25 a.m.

**Budget Modification**

Jon Heggen, Chief of Enforcement reported that Shikar Safari International has given the Department \$70,000 to replace the outdated DNA machine at the Forensics Lab. The Enforcement Bureau requests an increase in its FY07 budget, Enforcement Trust Donations, in the amount of \$70,000 to bring the budget in line with capital spending for new lab equipment for DNA forensic analyses and wildlife research data collection in order to testify in enforcement cases.

**06-85** Commissioner Barowsky moved and Commissioner Wright seconded a motion **TO APPROVE THE BUDGET ADJUSTMENT TO PURCHASE THE DNA EQUIPMENT**. The motion carried in a unanimous vote.

**LANDS**

**Redbird Canyon**

Director Huffaker updated Commissioners on Redbird Canyon. He stated that the papers were signed yesterday and transmitted to all parties. He noted the money will change hands this morning when the title will be signed and the former Hatley property will be the property of the Idaho Fish and Wildlife Foundation (IFWF). Director Huffaker stated the operating agreement is in place between the IFWF and the Department to manage the land as part of the Craig Mountain Wildlife Management area.

IFWF will start applying for the federal money to help with management, primarily weed control. Director Huffaker stated that since the property is considered private property it will be eligible for Farm Bill programs.

A letter was sent to the Foundation for North American Wild Sheep (FNAWS) stating that absent any change in their position, the commitment to help purchase the property with funds of \$170,000 over a three year time frame is expected. The Department's assumption is that agreement is still in effect unless FNAWS officially rescinds their original offer.

If sportsmen organizations wish to make a donation to this acquisition, the Foundation will be glad to accept. One donation has already been made in the amount of \$523.00.

Individuals making significant donations will have their names posted on a sign on the property referencing their donation.

### **Spirit Lake Update**

Director Huffaker stated that the Commission has taken action on the three acre boat ramp at Spirit Lake. The closing on this property is projected for this week.

### **Harris Ranch Update**

Director Huffaker stated that the Harris family is developing property in the flats of the Boise foothills and has proposed a gift of 40 acres to the Idaho Fish and Wildlife Foundation. The property is adjacent to the Boise WMA and would be an excellent buffer area to add to the Boise WMA. The closing is in the process. The Southwest Region and the Commission will need to decide what to do about the management of the area. The options for management would be for IFWF to have ownership and enter a management agreement like Redbird property; or to ask IFWF to donate the title to the Department.

## **MISCELLANEOUS**

### **Agenda Changes**

Chairman Wheeler stated that he will have to leave the meeting at 9:00 a.m. to attend a meeting in the Governor's office. Commissioners Budge and Irby have prior commitments to attend at 10:00 a.m. He stated that Commissioners will not have a working lunch.

## **LANDS**

Chairman Wheeler would like for the Commission to look at how the Commission makes land acquisitions. He would like for each Region to look at what are the priority projects in each region.

Director Huffaker stated that several years ago as per the Department's new policy a Department Lands Committee was established. The committee includes regional habitat managers and bureau staff, headed by Deputy Director Mansfield and co-chaired by Jeff Gould and Gregg Servheen. The committee has been implementing the acquisition policy of the Department and Commission.

As per Commission direction of May 2006, the committee is developing Conceptual Area Plans to identify priority areas for land habitat conservation.

Gregg Servheen stated that the Committee is developing these plans to cover the entire state and holding workshops with regional staff to gather their input and discuss these issues. The plan will also be based on public input. The Lands Committee will develop a draft Conceptual Area Plan based on staff workshops and public input.

All of the suggestions for land acquisition projects that the Commission hears have been presented and passed by the Lands Committee and then forwarded by the Director to the Commission for their ok.

## **REPORT**

### **Idaho Heritage Project**

Will Whelan from the Nature Conservancy provided a report to the Commission on the Idaho Heritage Project (Appendix 39, Exhibit 121). The Ranch, Farm and Forest Protection Act would:

- Provide state income tax credits to willing landowners who make a qualifying conservation contribution
- Allow recipients to sell tax credits to willing buyers
- Focus the allocation of tax credits on working lands that provide important benefits to fish and wildlife
- Create sufficient oversight to ensure effective use of tax credits and safeguard against abuses
- Provide a sufficient incentive while minimizing the impact to the state budget

The Commission supports these five points and will monitor the bill when it is presented to the Legislature. Sharon Kiefer will provide a Legislative update at the January Commission meeting on the status of the bill.

## **MISCELLANEOUS**

### **Executive Session**

**06-86** Commissioner Irby moved and Commissioner Barowsky seconded a motion **TO HOLD AN EXECUTIVE SESSION, PURSUANT TO IDAHO CODE 67-23459(1) TO DISCUSS PERSONNEL MATTERS.** The motion carried in a unanimous vote.

The Executive Session began at 10:00 a.m. and concluded at 2:00 p.m. No action was taken.

## **REPORT**

Director Huffaker stated that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service was meeting with Governor Risch today regarding the expected announcement that it will propose delisting Rocky Mountain wolves as endangered in Idaho, Montana and Wyoming by the end of January. James Caswell, Office of Species Conservation, answered questions from the Commission regarding the delisting process.

## **MISCELLANEOUS**

### **Executive Session**

**06-87** Commissioner Barowsky moved and Commissioner Power seconded a motion **TO HOLD AN EXECUTIVE SESSION, PURSUANT TO IDAHO CODE 67-23459(1) TO DISCUSS PERSONNEL MATTERS.** The motion carried in a unanimous vote.

The Executive Session began at 2:40 p.m. and concluded at 3:15 p.m. No action was taken.

### **Interview Process for Director**

Director Huffaker stated that the Commission has selected 5 individuals to be interviewed for the position of Director of Idaho Department of Fish and Game. These individuals are as follows:

Kevin Delaney  
Michael Dunbar  
Cal Groen  
Dave Parrish  
James Unsworth

### **Appointment of Interim Director**

Chairman Wheeler stated that a motion is needed to appoint Deputy Director Mansfield as Interim Director.

**06-88** Commissioner Power moved and Commissioner Wright seconded a motion **TO APPOINT DEPUTY DIRECTOR TERRY MANSFIELD TO SERVE AS INTERIM DIRECTOR EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2007 AND WILL SERVE UNTIL A NEW DIRECTOR IS APPOINTED BY THE COMMISSION.** The motion carried in a unanimous vote.

Adjournment 3:16 p.m.

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Cameron Wheeler  
Chairman

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Cal Groen  
Secretary